

Montana State Legislature

2013 Session

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- **Business Report**
- **Roll Call – Attendance**
- **Standing Committee Reports**
- **Tabled Bills**
- **Fiscal Reports etc.**
- **Roll Call Votes**
- **Informational Items**
- **Witness Statements**
- **Any Documents; such as;**
 - * **Petitions if any.**
 - * **Any and all material handed end after the meeting ends.**

**The original is on file at the
Montana Historical Society
and may be viewed there.**

**Montana Historical Society
Archives
225 N. Roberts
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2013 Legislative Scanner Susie Hamilton

BUSINESS REPORT

**MONTANA SENATE
63rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

SENATE BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Date: Thursday, April 18, 2013
Place: Capitol

Time: 11:00 A.M.
Room: 422

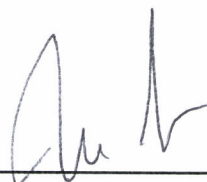
BILLS and RESOLUTIONS HEARD:

SR 76 - Confirm Governor's appointees to Boards of Architects and Landscape Architects -
Sen. Jon Sonju

EXECUTIVE ACTION TAKEN:

SR 76 - ~~Do Pass~~ Be Adopted
HB 284 - Be Concurred In

Comments:



SEN. Jon Sonju, Chair

MONTANA STATE SENATE ROLL CALL

BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

DATE: 4-18-, 2013

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT/ EXCUSED
Vice Chair Jackson		✓
Senator Facey	✓	
Senator Arntzen	✓	
Senator Moore	✓	
Senator Stewart-Peregoy		✓
Senator Barrett	✓	
Senator Brown	✓	
Senator Van Dyk	✓	
Senator Vuckovich	✓	
Chairman Sonju	✓	

10 Committee Members



SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 18, 2013

Page 1 of 1

Mr. President:

We, your committee on **Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs** recommend that **Senate Resolution 76** (first reading copy -- white) **be adopted.**

Signed: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Sonju".

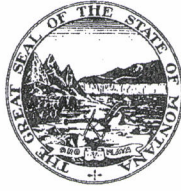
Senator Jon Sonju, Chair

- END -

Committee Vote:

Yes 8, No 0

Fiscal Note Required ____



**PRELIMINARY
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

**April 18, 2013
Page 1 of 1**

Mr. President:

We, your committee on **Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs** recommend that **Senate Resolution 76** (first reading copy -- white) be adopted.

Signed: _____

Verdeell Jackson
Senator Jon Sonju, Chair

- END -

Committee Vote:

Yes 8, No 0

Fiscal Note Required ____

SR0076001SC.swr



SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 18, 2013

Page 1 of 1

Mr. President:

We, your committee on **Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs** recommend that **House Bill 284** (third reading copy -- blue) **be concurred in.**

Signed: _____

Verdell Jackson
Senator Jon Sonju, Chair

To be carried by Senator Debby Barrett

- END -

Committee Vote:

Yes 7, No 3

Fiscal Note Required ____

HB0284001SC13543.swr

MONTANA STATE SENATE ROLL CALL VOTE

BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

DATE: 4-18-, 2013 HB/SB # 284

7-3 Take HB 284
off the Table.

NAME	YES	NO
Vice Chair Jackson	✓	
Senator Facey		✓
Senator Arntzen	✓	
Senator Moore	✓	
Senator Stewart-Peregoy		✓
Senator Barrett	✓	
Senator Brown	✓	
Senator Van Dyk		✓
Senator Vuckovich	✓	
Chairman Sonju	✓	

10 Committee Members

MONTANA STATE SENATE

Visitors Register

SENATE BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 18, 2013

SR 76 - Confirm Governor's appointees to Boards of Architects and Landscape Architects

Sponsor: Sen. Jon Sonju

PLEASE PRINT

[illegible]

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.

RONALD E. BROTHERS, CFSP

POST OFFICE BOX 557
HAMILTON, MONTANA 59840
TELEPHONE: 406-360-1108
brothersr@msn.com

**ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS**

MORTICIAN AND CREMATORY OPERATOR

Professional Profile

Achieved manager with more than 19 years of success in the funeral/cremation industry. Superior skills in organization and personalization of funeral, cremation, and monument services. Excellent skills in all aspects of the day-to-day operations of funeral business, computer skills / web design, arrangement expertise and interpersonal communication. A Certified Funeral Service Practitioner.

- Montana Board of Funeral Service / Vice-Chairman
- Professional dedicated team leader with well-developed motivational skills and proven ability to work with team members. Solid skills in staff training, delegation and development.
- Reliable manager/team player with strong work ethic and proven ability to maintain optimum productivity, provide excellent service, creatively solve problems, and continually meet fluctuating business demands.
- Received numerous letters of recommendation and notes of appreciation for quality of service, attention to detail, reliability, and overall effectiveness.
- Previous officer in the Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis, Lions, 1st Marine Division Association, Eagles, Bitter Root Chamber of Commerce and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, along with service to the community in the Elks and VFW and numerous other community and civic organizations.

Experience

Brothers Mortuary and Crematory – Hamilton, Montana

(2007 to Present) Owned and operated by Ronald E. Brothers. Manage day-to-day operations.

Dowling Funeral Home and Crematory – Hamilton, Montana

Family owned firm with four partners. Managed day-to-day operations, excellent employee relations and willingness to lead by example. "I believe a leader should teach everyone to lead, if they have the desire."

General Manager (1999 to 2007)

- Successfully managed independent- family owned firm, increased revenue and pre-arrangement agreements. Managed inventory control, account payables / receivables, and budgeting requirements.
- Ensured compliance with OSHA, FTC, state contractual agreements, state boards rules and regulations.
- Coordinate funeral / cremation services and ensure that quality and standards are met.
- Provided extra time to employee training and customer relations / promotion.
- Started the Brothers - Dowling Monument Company and Mathews International Dealership.
- Assumed full management responsibilities.

Accomplishments:

- Case volume revenue increased by 30%.
- Required an up-to-date knowledge of funeral and cremation services and achieve 20 hours of continued education per year.
- Managed logistics, implemented more efficient work methods.
- Conducted staff training programs to improve staff knowledge and customer service, sponsored by:
 - APFSP – MFDA - NFDA

ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS

Experience (Continued)

Johnson Mortuary – Kalispell, Montana

Family owned firm purchased by Carriage Services, Houston, Texas

Mr. Paul Johnson, Owner – deceased July 26, 2005, at the age of 44

Team Member (1995-1999)

- Career oriented team member
- Made arrangements and directed funeral / cremation services, embalmed and crematory operator.

Formal Education -

Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice – Westerville, Ohio
Certified Funeral Service Practitioner

Mt. Hood Community College – Gresham, Oregon
Mortuary Science Degree / Passed the National Boards

Flathead Valley Community College – Kalispell, Montana
Nursing/Pre- Med (Interim Studies)

Naval School of Health Sciences – San Diego, California
Navy Corpsman/Combat M.E.D.I.C./Trauma Medicine

Apprenticeship

Hamilton – Mylan Funeral Home, Vancouver, Washington (2 years)
Previously licensed as a Funeral Director/Embalmer in State of Washington

Internship

Johnson Mortuary, Kalispell, Montana (1 year)

Military

Honorable discharged - served with the United States Navy as a Medical/Corpsman
Attached to the United States Marine Corp:
1st Marine Division, 1st 13th MEU SOC – combat action (1986-1991)

Scholarships

Montana Funeral Directors Association (1993) Washington Funeral Directors Association (1993)
American Board of Funeral Services Education (1994)

Interests

Running, biking, lifting weights, kayaking, rafting, fishing, bird hunting, golfing and trap/skeet shooting.

Personal

U.S. Citizen.

Keim, Linda

**ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS**

From: JOSEPH STEVENS <fourleafclover56@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2013 5:59 PM
To: Keim, Linda
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for Ron Brothers

From: fourleafclover56@msn.com
To: pmurdo@mt.gov
CC: lkein@mt.gov
Subject: Letter of Support for Ron Brothers
Date: Thu, 28 Mar 2013 17:56:12 -0600

This is a letter of support for Ron Brothers for the Mt. Board of Funeral Services.

Ron took care of my mother after her passing and did a remarkable job. He is the perfect Mortician in my mind, very professional and personable. I would think he would be a perfect board member. He is very intelligent, caring, responsible and comes up with great ideas. He's always trying to innovate, help people and do the best job possible.

Sincerely,

Joseph Stevens
1516 Old Darby Road
Hamilton, Mt. 59840

406-369-3399

Foster Funeral Home & Crematory
216 Project Drive - St. Ignatius, Montana 59865

(406) 745-6789 * (866) 745-2121 Toll Free * Fax line (406) 745-2121

**ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS**

March 22, 2013

Review Panel members and staff;

I would like to lend my support to John Tarr, Ron Brothers, and Bart Thompson, having all remain on the Board of Funeral Service. All have performed their duties on this board by doing what has been asked of them in a professional and independently minded manner that the State should be proud of.

My wife and I feel that we as a firm need to comment as an independent voice. After the hearing, I found out that our firm was mentioned without our funeral home name being disclosed. As an independent firm that is the unlicensed facility mentioned we feel it is important to have people on the Board that are not members of the MFDA. (After guidance & advice from previous boards, their legal council and the inspector we chose to exercise this option. While I voluntarily maintain my personal license, our firm is Native owned and incorporated under the CS&K Tribes).

Contrary to what is represented by the MFDA. The Association does not represent all the funeral homes in the industry. With the recent acquisitions by the larger corporations in the Montana Funeral Industry, the area west of the Divide (Western Montana) has actually more non members if figured by ownership than members. By my calculations there are 15 firms but only 7 are members of MFDA.

Individually all three members in question have demonstrated their worth and should be commended. To be more specific...

John Tarr has been the voice of reason and truly is the voice of the public on a board that is often more about industry and practitioner protection. He keeps the Board firmly grounded in the principles it was established for.

Bart Thompson is active and represents the Board & State very well on the national committees that he is on. I for one am glad that he questions very seriously the education requirements that the applicants possess as he is on the National Boards that are associated with licensing requirements.

Ron Brothers as a member of the Adjudication Panel of the Board recently exhibited why he should be on the Board. He corrected a travesty that was being perpetrated by the Screening Panel Attorney. Said legal counsel failed to use the correct laws/rules when handling the complaint that was before him. Because of this Mr. Brothers recommended that the stipulation being proposed be accepted but be amended to not have any financial penalty. The motioned carried unanimously by the 3 members of the Adjudication Board. (His apparent reasoning was that attorney fees paid for the defense were sufficient when the complaint should have been dismissed. The complaint before the Adjudication Board would not have made it to the Adjudication Board had the State's Legal Council been more thorough.)

ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS

As a mortician who is approaching 30+ years of being licensed in one capacity or another. I can tell you that the MFDA does serve its members well. I was the MFDA SW District Governor for two terms. But the issue at hand is not one of having the appointments reviewed to meet the MFDA approval but to keep the Board more independent of the industry lobbyists and Associations. All three of these individuals are currently not members of the MFDA and the State should let these appointments stand.

If the State wants to focus on something for better Government maybe it should look at the Chairman of the Board. In my opinion, he has failed on numerous fronts. For example....

1st Mr. Brown has on numerous times in his duties as a Board Member failed to keep matters confidential even though he is obligated to do so as they have been dismissed with prejudice or have a confidentiality agreement.

2nd He failed to call for elections of officers until it was brought to his attention.

3rd He has presided over a Board for almost 6 years that has failed in its fiscal responsibility and is currently in jeopardy of another year of insolvency.

4th When asked about "Sunsetting" he failed to answer truthfully about the Board's financial status or the amount of duplicity in regulation that already exists on the federal level.

5th I know for a fact that Mr. Brown failed to act on at least one complaint that was brought before the Board and forwarded it to the Department Head for response. Since this complaint was not anonymous, the complaint should have been shown the same respect and went through the process as mandated

6th His insistence on not following rules has allowed him a vote on many issues that he should have had little to no say on. As Chairman of the Board he should only cast a vote in the event of a tie.

I understand that no one is perfect and that if asked many others could also add to this list but if the panel wants to truly help the Board please remove Mr. Brown and leave good people (the other appointees) alone. And if you must replace these appointees please keep the appointees as non members of MFDA so that they can speak their mind with out fear of disapproval from the "Industry Leader"

If you have any questions please call I will be happy to answer them.

Respectfully,

Ralph C. Foster,
Montana Mortician Lic. #467
Mgr. /Co-owner of Foster Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc.

Keim, Linda

From: k7yxu@bridgeband.com
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 10:33 AM
To: Keim, Linda
Subject: ron brothers

Dear Linda Keim;

I'm witting this note to urge keeping Ron Brothers on the Montana Funeral Board. I have had occasion to work with Ron professionally over the past few years and have found him to be consistently honest and above board in every situation. I don't know what more we could want.

Thanks, John L.

Nash,
mortician,
Manhattan,
MT.

ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS

Keim, Linda

From: Jennifer J. Schulze <jenniferj_2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 5:04 PM
To: Murdo, Patricia; Keim, Linda; JJ
Subject: Nomination to Board of Funeral Service

I understand Ron Brothers is up for nomination for the Board of Funeral Directors. I am a Critical Care nurse in Missoula and have had contact with Ron on several different occasions. I have been present in his interactions with family and with other staff. I find him to be a very caring and professional individual. We so very often recommend Ron to family members in their time of loss because we, here at the hospital, have dealt with Rons professionalism and have reason to recommend him to family.

I strongly recommend him for RE-nomination.

Thank you for your time and professionalism,
Jennifer Schulze RN
Critical Care Nurse
Missoula, Montana

Keim, Linda

**ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS**

From: Tim Bozik <tim@bitterrootbrewing.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 5:03 PM
To: Keim, Linda

Regarding Ron Brothers Nomination to the Board of Funeral Service,

My name is Tim Bozik,

I've known Ron for about 15 years, I have during that time attended many of his services. I have nothing but the best review for what I've seen, some of these services were for close friends. He is always professional and attentive to all. I expect he will take care of me when the time comes. I am a past president of the Bitterroot Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Montana State Brewers Association.

In addition I have been an employer for more than 32 years, the last 17 in the Bitterroot. I would recommend Ron Brothers to the Montana Board of Funeral Service without hesitation.

Sincerely,

Tim Bozik
tim@bitterrootbrewing.com
406-370-9690

Tim Bozik
tim@bitterrootbrewing.com
406-370-9690

ADDITIONAL
EVIDENCE

Keim, Linda

**ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS**

From: bill@nelsonpowerlaw.com
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 8:39 AM
To: Keim, Linda
Subject: Board of Funeral service nomination

Hi, I would like to voice support for my friend Ron Borthers to this Board. I've known Ron for years and found him to be honest and compassionate. Thanks, Bill

Nelson Law Office PLLC
William J Nelson
Attorney at Law
217 North 3rd Street
Hamilton, Mt
Ph (406) 363-3181
Fax (406) 552-0153

Think Green. Before printing this e-mail, think if it is necessary.

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ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS

SENATE BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Attached is information that Ron Brothers, a nominee for the Board of Funeral Service, asked be distributed to you. Rather than make copies, I am using this format. I tried to remove all Social Security Number references. Technically, this material should be submitted as an exhibit for SR 42.

After reviewing the information, please check off your name and pass the material to another committee member. Thank you!

Sen. Elsie Arntzen EA

Sen. Debbie Barrett DB

Sen. Dee Brown DB

Sen. Tom Facey TF

Sen. Verdell Jackson VJ

Sen. Eric Moore EM

Sen. Jon Sonju JS

Sen. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy SSP

Sen. Kendall Van Dyk KV

Sen. Gene Vuckovich GV

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Sen. Eric Moore EM

Sen. Jon Sonju JS

Sen. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy SSP

Sen. Kendall Van Dyk KVD

Sen. Gene Vuckovich GV

ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS
NAVPERS 1070/613 (Rev. 1-76)
S/N 0106-LF-010-6990

E-32

SEE BUPERSMAN 5030420

SHIP OR STATION

USS OKINAWA (LPH-3), FPO SAN FRANCISCO, CA 96625-1630

20MAR91: Participated in Operation Desert Shield while deployed aboard USS Okinawa (LPH-3) in the North Arabian Sea.

Participated in Operation Desert Shield/Storm while deployed aboard the USS Okinawa (LPH-3) in the North Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf.

Participated in Operation Desert Sting on Maradim Island, Kuwait, while deployed aboard USS Okinawa (LPH-3).

Participated in Desert Saber Amphibious Feint off Ash Shuaybah, Kuwait, during Operation Desert Storm while deployed aboard USS Okinawa (LPH-3).

Participated in EPW evacuation operations, Faylaka Island, Kuwait, while deployed aboard USS Okinawa (LPH-3).

Ronald E. Brothers
O.E. NAVARRO, PNC, USN
Personnel Officer
By direction of the C.O.

ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS

NAME (Last, First, Middle)

BROTHERS, RONALD E.

SSN

BRANCH AND CLASS
USN

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Company D

Battalion Landing Team 1/4

13th Marine Expeditionary Unit

FPO San Francisco, CA 96694-8413

V1/4 D Co

21 APR 91

From: 2nd Platoon Commander, Co. D, 1st Bn 4th Marines
To: Whom it may concern

Subj: LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR HM3 RONALD E. BROTHERS

1. During the two years that HM3 Ronald E. Brothers was under my command, he conducted himself in an exemplary manner. Serving as the platoon corpsman, he consistently went out of his way to ensure all 37 of my Marines received prompt medical care when they needed it. His classes on the treatment of battle wounds and chemically contaminated casualties during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm were instrumental in developing the platoon's proficiency and confidence in saving the life of a fellow Marine. Intelligent, reliable, and eager to learn, HM3 Brothers has proven himself to be a valuable asset to the Navy and the Marine Corps. The tireless effort and enthusiasm he so clearly displayed in service to his country will undoubtedly carry over into the academic world.

Devin P. Holder
DEVIN P. HOLDER
1st LT USMC

ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS

ANY ALTERATIONS IN SHADED
AREAS RENDER FORM VOID

SERVICE - 7

DOCUMENTS
ADDITIONAL